The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and editorial interpretations of matters affecting labor occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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YOUR UNION LABELS, CARDS AND BUTTONS INSURE YOUR JOBS

WHOLE NO. 1858 | WILLIAM GREEN, President | WASHINGTON, D. C., TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 1946 | GEORGE MEANY, Secretary-Treasurer | VOL. 36, NO. 47

LABOR, USA

The twentieth edition of the American Federationist of the Air, broadcast on the "Labor, USA" program over the American Broadcasting Company network, included the following outstanding feature articles to supplement the news:

Time for a Showdown

By MATTHEW WOLL

Vice President of the AFL

Day after day new jealousies and conflicts keep cropping up within the United Nations. Its international machinery, designed to safeguard world peace, is missing on all cylinders and getting nowhere fast. The General Assembly has become a glorified debating society where pious hopes can be expressed without commitments. The Council of Foreign Ministers continues to seek piecemeal solutions of postwar problems of individual nations in Europe without any clearcut plan or policy for Europe as a whole.

All of these negative developments may provide a field day for professional diplomats skilled at playing power politics, but they do not augur well for the future of world peace and security.

Why are the United Nations so disunited? By this time everyone should know the answer. It has been clearly demonstrated that a basic conflict exists between the United States and the other democratic nations on one hand and Soviet Russia and her satellites on the other.

This fundamental conflict cannot be explained away as a struggle for world power between contending forces. It is not that at all.

The democratic nations are not seeking to dominate the world. Certainly no one can accuse the United States of nursing imperialistic ambitions. If we were, would we offer to share the secret of the atomic bomb? Would we deplete our own supplies of food and scarce materials to come to the rescue of the war-torn nations of Europe and Asia without asking anything in return?

Judged by this same test—the test of actions rather than words—Russia stands revealed as a nation which has not hesitated to use force and aggression in order to seize territory and gain greater power.

True, Soviet spokesmen are talking very freely of late about democracy and disarmament. But how can we believe in the sincerity of Russia's sudden allegiance to democracy when civil liberties are denied even to her own people and slave labor is widely practiced in her own and occupied territories? And how can we trust Russia's promise to disarm along with other nations when she will not permit inspection of what is going on behind the iron curtain that shuts off Eastern Europe from the rest of the world?

The democratic nations are not seeking world domination, but Russia is—and our efforts at this time are limited to blocking her. That is the reason for the existing stalemate in the United Nations.

To break this deadlock, an immediate showdown with Russia is necessary. Further delays and obstructions will injure rather than promote the cause of world peace.

In seeking such a showdown, let it be clearly understood that the United States is ready to give every consideration to the legitimate aspirations and progress of the Russian people. The American Federation of Labor supported every form of relief to Russia during the war and we are prepared to help the Russian people now to improve their way of life in a peaceful world.

So far as we are concerned, the form of government the Russian people choose is their business, not ours. But the free trade union movement does not believe and never will believe that lasting peace can be based upon injustice. And we are convinced that the denial of civil liberties and the practice of slave labor are among the worst injustices ever visited upon mankind.

Back to a Free Economy

By GEORGE MEANY

Secretary-Treasurer of the AFL

For more than a year our national economy has been propped up on crutches, making slow and painful headway with the rather uncertain assistance of Government controls. Now the crutches have been thrown away, controls on wages and most prices have been removed, and our economy will have to learn to stand on its own feet.

To some people this is a frightening prospect. They have become so accustomed to leaning on the Government that they fear collapse without that support.

Not so the American Federation of Labor. We welcome the return to a free economy. Our great fear was that Government controls might become permanent. At our recent convention we unanimously demanded their elimination. We have the utmost confidence in our ability to stand on our own feet and make progress under our own power. That confidence is not limited to the future of the trade union movement. It extends to industry as well and to our whole American way of life.

But it isn't going to be easy to learn how to walk all over again, especially at the beginning. The first steps may be faltering, we may even suffer some distressing falls before our liberated postwar economy hits its real stride.

Let me get down to cases. The first reaction to President Truman's order removing price controls on all items except rent, sugar and rice was relief. Then, over the weekend, a few disturbing developments occurred. The price of soap, still in short supply, shot up. One large automobile firm announced a $100 increase in the price of its cars. A few food items were boosted in neighborhood stores.

But for the most part, business showed restraint. Such restraint is vitally necessary if we are to have an ordered economy and check inflation. If prices begin to break bounds all over the lot, if the cost of living is going to zoom upward again, the natural and inevitable result will be a wave of demands for wage increases which may result in still higher prices and a disastrous runaway inflation.

Yes, labor also must exercise restraint in the coming months to protect its own interests as well as the general welfare of the nation. The fact that wage contracts run for specified periods, usually for a year, will serve as a stabilizing influence. But industry and the public must recognize the inescapable truth that if the cost of living continues to go up, the workers of our country will be forced to seek higher wages.

It seems to me that the only effective insurance against higher prices is increased production. In fact, when production mounts to the point where scarcities are ended, prices should be reduced to a more reasonable level. Therefore, the common goal of industry and labor in the months ahead should be to increase production by every means possible.

Every effort must be made through free collective bargaining to iron out differences between employers and unions without resort to strikes.

But let us face the facts. In a free country some strikes are bound to occur. They should be settled fairly and promptly, with justice to both sides. The only cure for strikes in the long run is to eliminate their causes. This has been accomplished in a number of industries. It can be done in all industries by patient effort and a sincere desire to establish a friendly and cooperative relationship between employers and workers on a permanent basis.

That is the goal toward which organized labor is striving. Congress cannot help the situation any by attempting to legislate against labor in a spirit of anger. Vengeful and punitive legislation would only do more harm than good.

The difficult period of readjustment through which we are passing requires restraint, understanding and tolerance on all sides if we ever hope to regain and preserve the free American way of life.

KNOXVILLE DAIRY UNION GETS NEW CONCESSIONS

Knoxville, Tenn.—The employes of Southern Dairies, Inc., all members of Chauffeurs and Teamsters Local 621, have received various improved conditions in their renewal agreement. The new agreement was signed on October 17, and will be in force for one year. All employes received an overall 10 percent increase, five holidays with pay with a stipulation clause for premium pay on holidays.

The inside employes were granted a 54-hour work week, with time an a half for all work after 40 hours. Retail drivers will receive double time, where they were formerly paid time and a half for all work performed on the seventh consecutive day.

NEW MARBLE CONTRACT

Sylacauga, Ala.—A contract has been concluded with the Alabama Marble Co., the Harrah Marble Corp. and the International Marble Workers (AFL), providing paid vacations, holiday pay, hourly raises of from 7½ cents to 25 cents (average 15) four hours reporting pay, shift differential of 5 and 10 cents an hour, and maintenance of membership with irrevocable checkoff.

AFL BUILDING TRADES LIST 80,000 LEARNERS

Washington, D. C.—William F. Patterson, director of the federal apprentice training service, reported that AFL building trade unions have stepped up training programs so that nearly 80,000 apprentices are learning trades, but more skilled apprentices are needed for projected construction.

The Veterans' Administration report shows that 1,958,053 veterans of the World War II were receiving Federal education or training benefits at the end of October and, during late September and October 509,521 veterans entered schools and colleges, increasing the total to 1,292,298. During the same period, 81,864 entered on-the-job training, raising the total in that program to 665,160.

RAIL INCOME CLIMBS

Washington, D. C.—During September railway operating income of Class 1 roads was 56.2 percent higher than that of a year ago because of "a combination of unusual accounting adjustments," according to the Interstate Commission. The increase was from $43,100,500 to $67,400,000 in net operating income.

Watt Warns Management to Resist Political Shifts In Labor Policies

New York City.—A strong call for firm resistance to efforts of politicians to shift the weight of Government authority behind business instead of unions, as an aftermath of the recent change from Democratic to Republican control, was sounded here by Robert J. Watt, international representative of the American Federation of Labor.

Addressing the 38th annual meeting of the Grocery Manufacturers of America, Inc., he declared that Government interference is equally bad for both management and labor. He emphasized particularly that economic functions should not be subordinated to politics.

In a session devoted to the problem of industrial peace and prosperity, leaders of both management and labor warned the food manufacturers that a battle between the giants of business and labor can wreck America's industrial machine. The answers they proposed were a mutual understanding of fundamental problems, an assumption by management of its human relations responsibilities and complete removal of Government from the field of industrial strife.

Two discouraging tendencies have been apparent since November 5, Mr. Watt told the meeting. On one hand there has been effort to put executive or legislative curbs on labor unions; on the other, an effort by some unions which have fed on Government patronage to demand Government action to increase wage levels by legislative fiat.

There is no legislative substitute for self discipline and joint cooperation, he continued, nor should unions be used as political instruments for the purpose of promoting Government domination of industry, with its consequent confusion of political responsibility.

The best answer, he added, is the working together of alert and intelligent unions and industry under machinery for orderly and peaceful settlement of industrial disputes, for the bungling intervention of Government agencies has sapped the vitality of independent labor unions and interfered with the normal process of collective bargaining.

British Foreign Minister Bevin Is Guest of Six AFL Leaders

New York City.—Six leaders of the American Federation of Labor played hosts here to British Foreign Minister Ernest Bevin, one of Britain's foremost trade union leaders, at a luncheon in the Hotel Commodore.

The meeting was described later by one of those in attendance as "a friendly get-together," although it was admitted that the participants discussed "some American and some British problems" of mutual interest.

The hosts at the luncheon were AFL President William Green, AFL Secretary-Treasurer George Meany, AFL Vice President Matthew Woll; Robert J. Watt, AFL international representative; Felix H. Knight, president of the Brotherhood of Railway Carmen, and David Dubinsky, president of the International Ladies Garment Workers.

Both Mr. Dubinsky and Mr. Woll had talked with Mr. Bevin some 10 days earlier with reference to the Palestine situation and the general problem of European refugees. It was understood both were heartened by this conference.

The arrival of Mr. Bevin for the luncheon was delayed for more than an hour due to a conference of the Big Five representative discussing use of the veto power. Mr. Bevin came to New York to attend a meeting of the Council of Foreign Ministers.

Mr. Bevin was accompanied by Lord Inverchapel, the British Ambassador, and A. McDonald Gordon, labor attache of the British Embassy, through whom the meeting had been arranged.

Mr. Bevin in 1915 was one of two fraternal delegates from the British Trades Union League to the AFL convention in San Francisco. It was then that he first met Mr. Green and Mr. Woll.

At that time, as a token of friendship, the AFL gave a ring to Mr. Bevin. Yesterday Mr. Bevin informed his hosts that the ring had become his personal official seal as Foreign Secretary. He promised to send them a picture of the seal, with which he stamps all official documents when he signs them.

Printers In Washington, D.C., Receive Substantial Increases

Washington, D. C.—Government and commercial printers in the Nation's Capital have accepted substantial wage increases after extended negotiations.

Commercial printers, members of the Columbia Typographical Union No. 101 (AFL), voted, 263 to 95, to accept a wage offer of 47 cents an hour increase.

Shortly after this action was announced, Government printers voted to accept a 21-cent hourly wage increase offered by the Government Printing Office.

The new Government scale, amounting to nearly $2,000,000 annually, was approved by referendum, 822 to 312. It affects about 1,300 printers, bringing their hourly pay to $1.88.

Jesse Manbeck, president of the Columbia AFL Typographical Union, said the Government wage boost, including a 15 percent preferential for night work, would be submitted immediately for approval to the Congressional Joint Committee on Public Printing.

The new weekly wages for Government printers will stand, if approved, at $75.20 for day workers and $86.40 for the night shift.

The new contract for commercial printers was negotiated by a union committee with 28 District employers. The agreement would be in effect for two years and the increase brings the hourly rate on the day shift to $2, to $2.14 on the night shift, and to $2.29 on the third or early morning shift. The present four holidays would be increased to six.

WOOLWORTHS' IN ATLANTA SIGNS WITH RETAIL CLERKS

Atlanta, Ga.—A "first" was registered here when an agreement between the Retail Clerks' Union and Woolworth department store was signed recently. This is the first agreement to be signed between the Retail Clerks' International Association and any retail establishment in the city.

The agreement provides that no person shall be employed under the age of 16; one week's paid vacation for all employes who have been with the company for six months; two weeks vacation with pay for one-year employes, and three weeks vacation after five years with the company.

The contract calls for six holidays, and when an employe is required to work on these holidays, double time pay is allowed. Also, 15 days sick leave annually is provided, with the work week set at 42 hours, seniority rights, 15-minute rest periods each morning and afternoon and an increase in pay of $3 per week across the board.

U. S. ALLOCATES $8,000,000 FOR OPERATIONS OF USES

Washington, D. C.—The U. S. Labor Department has allocated $8,000,000 to the States for operation of the former United States Employment Service until the end of the calendar year. The Federal Government has operated the USES since January, 1942, and the return of the service to the States means that approximately 23,000 employes went off the Federal payroll on November 15th and started as State employes on November 18th.

NEW SAFEWAY DRIVE

Austin, Texas—An additional 5-cents-an-hour wage increase has been arranged between AFL Organizer Lester Graham and the management of Safeway Stores, Inc. Just recently the firm granted pay raises in addition to the new 5-cent increase.

29,400 HANDICAPPED FIND POSITIONS DURING OCTOBER

Washington, D. C.—The United States Employment Service has announced that a total of 29,400 handicapped workers were placed in jobs in October, an increase of 38 percent over September. This figure included 19,200 disabled veterans. The proclamation by President Truman during National Employ-the-Physically-Handicapped-Week, beginning October 6, spurred the country's employers to full cooperation.

TEAMSTERS AROUND DALLAS REGISTER INCREASED GAINS

Dallas, Texas—General Drivers' and Helpers Local Union 745 continue to gain better working conditions and increases in wages for the Teamsters in this area. Among the new renewals includes one with the Gillette Motor Transport, Inc., covering a new working classification; the National Biscuit Co., over-all improvements; and John Sexton Co., a wholesale grocery, where employes were granted an 18-cent-per-hour wage increase.

CHICAGO BUILDING RISES

Chicago, Ill.—During October building permits in the metropolitan area here made a gain of $4,161,993, or about 23 percent on all types of construction, according to a survey made by Bell Savings and Loan Association. These permits totaled $22,428,556, compared with $18,266,563 in September, and $20,820,312 in October 1945. Residential construction showed a gain after a continuous downward trend since last March.

UPHOLSTERERS GET RAISE

San Francisco, Calif.—Members of the Upholsterers International Union (AFL), representing 700 workers in 25 plants here, were granted wage increases from $1.20 to $1.45 an hour for journeymen and women.

U.S. Gets Court Injunction To Block Coal Strike Call

Court Order Restrains UMW From Declaring Contract Terminated

Washington, D. C.—In a precedent-shattering move, the Federal Government obtained a court injunction restraining John L. Lewis from informing the members of the United Mine Workers that he considered the union's contract with Secretary of the Interior Krug terminated.

The injunction, issued by Federal District Court Judge Goldsborough on the application of Attorney General Clark, was so sweeping in its terms that Mr. Lewis and other leaders of the union refused to say anything for publication.

However, the injunction was temporary and Judge Goldsborough fixed Nov. 27 as the time for a hearing on whether it should be made permanent. At that hearing the union officials will have the opportunity to present their side of the case. The temporary injunction was summarily issued without giving the union any opportunity of contesting it.

Meanwhile, there was no indication of any kind whether the members of the UMW would continue to work after the deadline set by the union in a letter from Mr. Lewis to Secretary Krug.

The position now is that the Government insists its contract with the union holds good as long as it continues to operate the coal mines; but the union, on the other hand, contends it has complied with the legal procedure necessary to terminate the contract.

The tradition UMW slogan is "no contract, no work."

The union's purpose in seeking to end the contract was reported to be to reduce the back-breaking 54-hour week now in force in the coal mines and to obtain a reduction to 40 hours a week without loss in pay.

The Government refused to bargain on this issue and instead suggested a 60-day truce during which the union should try to negotiate a new agreement with the coal mine owners. Since the mine owners have not yet even subscribed to the Lewis-Krug contract, the union felt it would be a waste of time to try to induce them to agree to better terms.

In his letter to Secretary Krug, Mr. Lewis said in part:

"Your statements to the contrary notwithstanding, the mine workers constantly from November 1 to and including November 11 made concrete proposals to you on the matter set out in the notice of October 21. You, cavalierly, now propose a 60-day freeze of the existing conditions on terms which you have first negotiated with the operators, who are strangers to the Krug-Lewis agreement. You arbitrarily assert the right to designate that 60-day period to begin on November 16 and prescribe the method of conducting a conference between the mine workers and operators during that period. You, likewise, assert that the Krug-Lewis agreement can be 'modified by mutual consent.' Then, sir, where do you find a legal or moral right to deny to the mine workers their plain contractual right to reopen the contract, as we respectfully requested on October 21?

"You now, at the last hour, of the last day, yield to the blandishments and soothing siren voice of the operators and seek to place the United Mine Workers of America and its members between Scylla and Charybdis. This course we refuse to follow.

"The Government of the United States seized the mines and entered into a contract. The mine workers do not propose to deal with parties who have no status under the contract. We do not propose to be driven like dumb beasts to the slaughter of slow strangulation envisioned by your proposal and the operators' well known and long-used tactics of evasion and delay. We call upon you to honor your contract.

"This, therefore, Mr. Secretary, constitutes our reply in the negative to your proposal."

CIO Convention Dodges Showdown On Red Issue

Atlantic City, N. J.—The CIO convention here dodged an open floor fight on the Communism issue when President Phil Murray jammed through without debate a weasel-worded resolution saying that the organization "resents and rejects" Communist interference in its affairs.

Murray placated the strong contingent of pro-Communist delegates at the convention in a speech assuring them that the CIO has no intention whatever of rooting them out. He said he was "definitely opposed to any form of repression in this movement."

Thus, Murray, who had led the right-wingers to believe that he was ready to lead their fight to wipe out Communist influence in the CIO and its affiliated unions, neatly deserted them when the showdown came and left them holding the bag.

Before the convention opened, Murray had given an indication of his desire to duck the Red issue when he appointed a committee of six to draw up some sort of compromise proposal and included on this committee three of the foremost Communist sympathizers in the CIO ranks. In fact, one of the committee members, Ben Gold, president of the CIO Fur Workers Union, is an avowed member of the Communist Party.

This committee drew up the "resents and rejects" resolution which was approved by the CIO Executive Board and then steamrollered through the convention at its first session in order to dispose of the hot potato before the right-wingers could rebel.

Two vice presidents of the Communist-controlled National Maritime Union stood up to oppose the resolution when the vote came on the convention floor, but later were prevailed upon to withdraw their opposition.

The convention action made it clear that Murray's strategy in inspiring newspaper stories several weeks ago that he intended to resign as CIO President was to use this threat as a club over the convention in case rebellion developed against his plans to gloss over the Communist issue and prevent a showdown.

Far from being satisfied with the convention decision, the right-wingers were reported thoroughly disillusioned and discouraged.

AFL Mission Offers German Workers Helping Hand to Improved Standards

Berlin, Germany—A broad pattern under which German labor can restore itself and improve standards of living on a par with workers of free nations throughout the world was laid down here in a radio program presented by a three-man mission from the American Federation of Labor.

William C. Doherty, President of the National Association of Letter Carriers and Vice President of the American Federation of Labor; Israel Fineberg, Vice President of the International Ladies' Garment Workers Union; and Anton Jakobs, International Representative of the Butchers and Meat Cutters Union, participated in the broadcast.

"We are of the firm conviction that free democratic trade unions contribute tremendously to the economy of our country. Our economic and social gains can be largely attributed to the fact that our membership has been voluntarily educated in all of the major problems confronting the United States in this vital postwar era," Mr. Doherty declared.

"The American workers also are conversant with the perplexing conditions facing the German workers. They know full well that our own economy eventually will suffer if the German workers are ill fed, poorly housed and denied the bare necessities of life.

"Frankly, the American Federation of Labor believes that the answer to most of the problems now facing German workers is full production. Without full production the chaotic conditions now prevailing will remain for some time.

"As a first step toward the full production goal, it is necessary to organize free democratic trade unions in all parts of Germany.

"From various sources of information, the AFL prepared a list of needs of German trade unions in carrying on union work and submitted the information to the President of the United States, the Secretary of State as well as to Lt. Gen. Lucius D. Clay. We asked that former properties of trade unions and their funds be returned to the organized unions and that their trade union officials have the use of automobiles for union business.

"Likewise, we asked that typewriters, mimeograph machines, printing presses and such other equipment as is necessary for maintaining union activities be supplied."

Mr. Doherty spoke at some length regarding the freedoms for which the AFL has consistently stood—freedom of speech, worship, assembly and press. He emphasized particularly that the AFL never has nor ever will approve labor conscription.

Mr. Fineberg told the German people that, regardless of any political differences in American labor, AFL trade unionists have maintained a firm organization, and he advised German workers to pursue a similar course.

Discussing collective bargaining, Mr. Fineberg explained how this system works in the United States and how, in most cases, unions are able to reach an understanding with management without resort to economic strength. Understandings are reached, he said, through conferences of union and management or through mediation, conciliation or arbitration, any one of which courses is adopted by mutual consent of both parties.

Mr. Jakobs, a native of a small town on the outskirts of Essen, said he had gone to the United States some 19 years ago. He said he was extremely proud of his citizenship in the United States and the important position which he had achieved in the American labor movement.

"There must be a rebirth of free democratic trade unions in Germany," he told the German workers. "It is with great elation that we learned of the redevelopment of free democratic trade unions in various parts of Germany."

Settlement Ends Lehigh Dispute

New York City.—Amicable settlement of a dispute involving wages and transfer of employes, reached between the Lehigh Valley Railroad and the Brotherhood of Railway and Steamship Clerks (AFL), averted an impending stoppage of operations on the Lehigh line.

Employes affected by the agreement include several hundred in New York City and others in various cities in New Jersey, including Jersey City and Newark, and in Pennsylvania, including Allentown, Wilkes-Barre, Pittston and Sayre; also in New York State, including Buffalo, Rochester and Syracuse.

Terms of the agreement were not disclosed. An officer of the railroad said, however, that while the brotherhood demands included a wage increase, one of the main issues in the dispute was the removal of the Philadelphia accounting office to Bethlehem, Pa., and the transfer of some employes to New York.

George Baier, of Jersey City, vice-general chairman of the brotherhood, had announced November 11 that a strike had been called for 7 a.m. November 20. He said the strike date, set by George M. Harrison, president of the brotherhood, had been voted "overwhelmingly" by the railroad's 2,500 clerks and freight handlers.

BOYS TOWN POPULATION TO BE INCREASED TO 1,000

Boys Town, Nebr.—At a cost of some $6,000,000, the unique community of Boys Town, near Omaha, is rushing through new construction and equipment to take care of its overcrowded population. The Rt. Rev. Monsignor Edward J. Flanagan, founder and director of this 30-year-old enterprise, has found that he must lower the minimum age at which he will accept boys for his home from 12 to 6.

Population displacements brought on by war production made it necessary to consider new factors. The boys who form 85 percent of the "citizens" of Boys Town became homeless between the ages of 12 and 16. Some were orphans while others were made homeless by the breaking up of their homes due to irresponsible parents. Applications for homes for these boys come from every State in the country as well as from Canada and occasionally from foreign countries. The projected expansion will permit accommodations for 1,000 boys instead of the present 450.

PAY INCREASE GRANTED

Santiago, Calif.—An arbitration panel of three company and three AFL Electrical Workers representatives agreed here to award pay increases of 8 percent plus 6 cents an hour to more than 800 employes of the Santiago Gas and Electric Co.

SAND AND GRAVEL WORKERS WIN RAISE IN ALABAMA

Sheffield, Ala.—The Tennessee Valley Sand and Gravel Co. of this city signed an agreement with Chauffeurs and Sales Drivers Local 402 and the Operating Engineers.

The contract contains maintenance of membership clauses, wage increases ranging from 15 to 40 cents an hour, six holidays with pay (time and a half if work is done on these holidays). Local 402 also signed an agreement with the George White Trucking Co., whose drivers received 20-cents-an-hour increase, together with improved working conditions.

The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and editorial interpretations of matters affecting labor occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR
WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE
SUPPLEMENT

YOUR UNION LABELS, CARDS AND BUTTONS INSURE YOUR JOBS

WILLIAM GREEN, President
WASHINGTON, D. C., FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 1946
GEORGE MEANY, Secretary-Treasurer

American Production Since V-J Day Sets New Record; '47 Outlook Bright

New York City.—American labor and industry, since V-J Day, have achieved the highest output of goods and services in the Nation's history, and face a bright outlook for the coming year.

This summarizes a report by Civilian Production Administrator John D. Small in an address before the National Industrial Conference Board here.

American labor and industry can look forward to an excellent year in 1947, he declared, if 57,000,000 to 58,000,000 persons can be kept employed at roughly current real earnings; if the Nation can avoid a new wave of labor-management strife and if price changes can be limited to minimum corrections.

The question of prices is of immediate concern, the speaker said, for the course of prices will be a major factor in deciding whether the country can maintain a stable and expanding economy or whether it is to have a "boom and bust."

In the field of labor-management relations, Mr. Small noted that despite much talk about new wage demands many of the national labor leaders have shown an appreciation of the economic fallacy of having prices and wages playing leapfrog.

On the question of inventories he said that manufacturers have to fill up gaps in order to smooth the flow into the production line, but agreed that there is some danger in building inventories up too much.

In his note of optimism, Mr. Small cited that since 1941 the population of the country has increased 5½ percent, while the number of persons employed has increased 13½ percent. More people with more dollars to spend means more demand and more production to meet that demand, he said.

Down-Trend In Food Prices Reported In Twelve of Nation's Largest Cities

Washington, D. C.—Consumers in 12 of the largest cities of the United States paid an average of from 1 to 2 percent lower prices for food on November 12 than two weeks earlier, the Labor Department's Bureau of Labor Statistics reported here after a survey.

The cost of clothing purchased by families of moderate income rose somewhat in the first week following price decontrol, according to a study in four cities.

Because of decontrol actions, the prices might have been expected to rise, but the bureau offered no explanation other than that "in part the decline was seasonal."

Increased supplies and "consumer resistance" were credited with lowering the price of meat in the cities surveyed. Round steak prices fell about 17 cents a pound in Washington, 9 cents in Boston and 8 cents in Los Angeles.

Prices of other foods were reported as follows:

Chicken: Prices in the 12 cities were below the usual seasonal drop.

Butter: The seasonal rise was reversed, with all cities reporting lower prices.

Eggs: Prices were lower in all cities, except Denver, which reported no change. Levels fell 17 cents a dozen, on the average, in Boston; 5 cents in Savannah and Washington, and 4 cents in New York, against a seasonal pressure for increased prices.

The other cities included in the survey besides those mentioned were Chicago, Cleveland, Houston, Kansas City and Pittsburgh.

A special report showed, on the other hand, that clothing prices increased an average of 1 percent in four cities.

The increases were attributed primarily to higher ceiling prices allowed manufacturers of shoes, shirts, work clothing and similar items in the last months of price control. The rise was about the same as that reported from September to October in the same cities, the bureau stated.

Snyder Warns Businessmen Against Talk of Depression

New York City.—The United States is enjoying an excellent economic health, but is on the verge of being talked into a condition of dydrophobia, Secretary of the Treasury John W. Snyder told the Economic Club of New York.

Addressing the group at a celebration marking its embarkation on its 40th year, Secretary Snyder declared:

"We need to guard against the developing depression psychology in this country which might, if unrestrained, see us literally talk ourselves into at least a temporary period of hard times," Mr. Snyder said. "A man perfectly well might find himself in a hospital in short order if his friends should start collectively feeling his pulse at frequent intervals, running apprehensive hands over his brow and telling him again and again how wretched he looked."

The Secretary asserted that no fair appraisal of "America today" can justify any feeling that a material recession is inevitable in "America tomorrow," saying, "We now have the hightest level of employment ever experienced in peacetime in the history of this country."

"We have the huge accumulation of personal savings; the unprecedented demand for goods and services," he continued. "Indices of material production, carloadings, electric power and the like bear eloquent testimony to our progress since the cessation of hostilities."

$790,000,000 Subsides End By Recent Decontrol Edict

Washington, D. C.—Close to three-fourths of the Government's billion-dollar subsidy program, or approximately $790,000,000, will be saved as the result of President Truman's recent decontrol order, John R. Steelman, Director of War Mobilization and Reconversion, announced.

The White House removal of controls, Mr. Steelman pointed out, automatically ended nearly all Government subsidies.

Subsidies from July 1 to November 9 totaled $119,061,000 for industrial and commercial commodities and $18,365,000 for agricultural products, for a combined sum of $137,426,000, the report disclosed. Additional obligations extending to the end of the fiscal year on June 30, 1947, will add up to another $72,270,000, it was stated.

The following list was made to indicate the amount of subsidies allowed under the Price Control Extension Act during the period July 1 to November 9:

Wood pulp	$1,700,000
Binder twine	700,000
Agave fiber	3,000,000
Meat	50,000,000
Coal (excess transportation costs)	7,000,000
Alcohol	2,000,000
Copper	2,250,000
Lead	1,200,000
Tin	2,400,000
Lead residue	11,000
Antimony	150,000
Steel sheet bars	750,000
Stripper wells	10,800,000
Premium price plan	25,000,000
Rubber (wartime commitments in South America and Africa)	12,000,000
Sugar	18,120,000
Peanuts	200,000
Barley for feed	45,000

The Reconstruction Finance Corporation and the Commodity Credit Corporation have been principally responsible for the Government's subsidy program. The RFC will continue its copper, lead and zinc premium price plan for maintaining production of these metals, and the stripper oil well subsidy for achieving maximum drilling operations, it was said.

The CCC also will continue its program for supporting prices paid growers of sugar beets and sugar cane in this country, and absorbing a portion of the price of cane sugar from Cuba, Hawaii, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

PRUDENTIAL WORKERS VOTE FOR AFL REPRESENTATION

New York City—Marking an outstanding triumph, the American Federation of Labor, supervisory employes of the Prudential Insurance Co., working here, voted 210 for AFL representation to 66 for nonunion. The election, supervised by the State Labor Relations Board, culminated nine months' effort by AFL organizers to secure bargaining rights for this group.

SHIP TIE-UP NEARS END

San Francisco, Calif.—A prolonged stoppage of West Coast shipping operations appeared close to an end here following negotiations between spokesmen for the Masters, Mates and Pilots (AFL) and the Pacific American Ship Owners Association.

Omar Hoskins, Federal Conciliation Commissioner, announced that negotiators of the AFL union had agreed to submit a final proposal by ship owners, dealing with the disputed issues, to meetings of the union membership.

An Editorial

Denial of Free Speech

America, which has always and rightfully prided itself on its jealous regard for free speech, now denies that right to labor.

In the great crisis which confronts the Nation today, the voice of labor has been arbitrarily silenced.

More than 400,000 soft coal miners, members of the United Mine Workers of America, have left the coal pits entirely on their own volition because they consider their contract terminated. No orders or instructions for a walkout were issued by the union or its officials.

To say that the coal stoppage has been condemned in the press, over the radio and through every other facility of public communication would be the ultimate of understatement.

A veritable torrent of villification and abuse has been let loose against the union and its president, John L. Lewis.

The public has heard no reply. It has heard and it continues to hear only one side of the case. The union and its leaders are silent. So must every other person in America remain silent, no matter how sympathetic he may be to the miners' cause.

Why this silence?

The answer is not far to seek. The War Labor Disputes Act, still in effect, even though the war ended more than a year ago, specifically forbids any organization or person from doing or saying anything which may be interpreted as "encouraging" a walkout in any plant or mine seized and operated by the Government.

Thus free speech in the current coal case is made a criminal offense.

We are making this statement because we do not believe the public understands these circumstances and may misinterpret the enforced silence imposed by law upon labor.

Once the American people do understand, we believe their fundamental sense of fair play will cause them to suspend judgment until the officials of the United Mine Workers Union have the opportunity to state their side of the case in court.

California 'Labor School' Exposed As Communist-Front Organization

San Francisco, Calif.—Leaders of American Federation of Labor unions along the Pacific Coast have emphatically condemned a so-called "California Labor School" as a Communist-front organization.

This organization, it appears from propaganda which it has sent around the country to AFL unions, has indicated that it is associated with the American Federation of Labor.

It has sent out letters to AFL unions requesting pictures of present and past leaders of the American labor movement and has asked also for source materials on leading American trade unions.

As an example of these appeals, this is a quotation from a letter by Irwin Elber, Trade Union Director of this group:

"Our's is the largest labor school in the country. We are recognized by the Veterans Administration and have hundreds of veterans and other men and women studying the labor movement in order to make a greater contribution to labor and democracy.

"We would be honored to receive your photographs, preferably autographed, as well as a picture of the present executive board of your union. In addition, if your organization has any photographs of early conventions and officers or any early publications of interest to students of the labor movement, we should be happy to receive them and preserve them in our library."

Investigation by officials of American Federation of Labor unions to whom such appeals have been addressed has disclosed that this so-called school of labor has never been endorsed or recognized by the AFL and that the California State Senate Interim Committee on un-American Activities drew from David Jenkins, a leader of this school, a frank admission that he was a registered Communist in New York City and that the Daily Worker had loaned $3,000 to start this school.

A report from C. J. Haggerty, secretary-treasurer of the California State Federation of Labor, said that this school originally was the Tom Mooney School.

"Prior to the Tenney Committee hearings," Mr. Haggerty revealed, "Hazel Grossman, wife of Aubrey Grossman, educational director of the Communist Party on the West Coast, was second in command of this school."

Mr. Haggerty declared that the organization now is engaged "in a drive to hoodwink international unions in order to borrow prestige from this kind of contact." Mr. Haggerty strongly urged all AFL union leaders to be on guard against any approaches by this group.

OAK RIDGE CENTRAL GETS AFL CHARTER

Oak Ridge, Tenn.—AFL President William Green has issued a charter for a Central Labor Union, comprised of 13 unions of the American Federation of Labor in this atomic energy community.

"The new CLU represents some 7,000 project workers and its goal is 'complete unionization of Oak Ridge'," said Kenneth L. Scott, AFL coordinator for the Knoxville area.

AFL locals represented are electricians, asbestos workers, chemical workers, fire fighters, laundry workers, culinary workers, operating engineers, sheet metal workers, teamsters, plumbers and steamfitters, carpenters, iron workers and machinists.

WSB, 6,700 Cases Behind, Sets Windup for Jan. 15

Washington, D. C.—Pointing toward its early liquidation, the Wage Stabilization Board informed its regional boards to wind up all pending enforcement cases by January 15.

Under present plans all cases unsettled by that date will be turned over to another governmental agency. The general belief here is that they will be referred to the Internal Revenue Bureau, a transfer which had been urged consistently by the American Federation of Labor.

The ruling also advised processing of voluntary disclosures made by employers interested in getting a final determination of their liabilities before the tripartite national board expires. Of the 6,700 pending cases, 343 involved wage decreases alleged to have been made in violation of the now expired controls.

"The national board is firm in its belief that there would be grave inequity if we were not to finish out our program under the present procedure," said W. Willard Wirtz, board chairman. "We believe that most employers will assist us in rapid handling of our cases."

Pending cases are distributed as follows: New York, 795; Boston, 536; Philadelphia, 1,429; Atlanta, 436; Cleveland, 902; Chicago, 541; Kansas City, 330; Dallas, 794; San Francisco, 356; Detroit, 349, and Seattle, 317.

The Wage Stabilization Board was created December 31, 1945, with members representing employers (who resigned October 10), employes and the public. The Executive Order naming the board also ended the existence of the National War Labor Board. Thereafter labor disputes were transferred to the jurisdiction of the Department of Labor. The Wage Stabilization Board was directed to deal with wage changes which might affect the stability of the national economy.

400,000 Soft Coal Miners Quit Jobs Despite Injunction Against Lewis

Text of Green's Statement On Coal Mine Situation

Washington, D. C.—Following is the statement issued by AFL President William Green regarding the work stoppage in the Nation's soft coal mines:

An adequate supply of coal for commercial and domestic purposes is an essential requirement to the comfort, well being and prosperity of the nation. The machinery of government should operate in such a way as to promote full production of coal.

This purpose can be achieved only if the miners mine coal. Nobody else can do it. They must serve and work and produce coal if the domestic and commercial needs of the nation are to be fully supplied.

Neither troops with bayonets, nor court injunctions, nor the incarceration of miners or their representatives in jail, can serve to produce one single ton of coal. Only the skilled, trained, courageous, free mine workers who are willing to risk their lives in the coal mines each day, can do this.

Apparently Mr. Krug, Secretary of the Interior, and his associates, ignored these facts when they precipitated the crisis which now prevails in mines throughout the nation. Miners are idle. This tragic situation was not caused by the issuance of an order by any union or by the representatives of a union. What caused it? The public ought to know, should know, and must be told.

Denunciation and insulting abuse of individuals will not bring about a resumption of mining operations. The facts show that the representatives of the government, which now operates the mines of the nation, failed to deal constructively with the problems and proposals relating to overtime employment, welfare funds, vacation payments and safety problems, brought to their attention by direction of the 400,000 mine workers of the nation through their chosen representatives who participated in a regular mine workers convention. Their representatives of the government assumed a rigid, inflexible, negative position.

Neither the Department of Labor nor the Conciliation Service of the Department of Labor, was brought into the picture. This service, which is utilized in controversies which arise between employers and employes in private industry, was rejected, ignored and never used by the representatives of the government when they dealt with the problems and proposals presented by the mine workers for solution.

The government representatives, adding insult to injury to the workers of the nation, have resorted to the use of the injunction process and as a result have made an extremely bad situation much worse. Labor regards this step on the part of the government as a violation of the Norris-LaGuardia Act. It represents force, violence and the threat of punishment on the part of the government.

Not only the miners who mine the coal but the workers of the nation resent this action on the part of the government. Workers everywhere have become thoroughly aroused and thoroughly conscious of the implications involved in the use of the injunction process in this situation originated and sponsored by the government.

Reports from all sections show that the miners have individually discontinued work on their own initiative, and without orders from any source whatsoever.

In my opinion, the government's resort to the injunctive process, with its enslaving and incriminating effects, will have the opposite result of that intended. Instead of returning to work, the miners who have voluntarily walked out will voluntarily refuse to return until a new contract becomes effective.

All American labor unites with the mine workers in condemning this reversion to the archaic philosophy of government by injunction and this perversion of the Norris-LaGuardia Act.

Hearings on Charges of Court Contempt Set For Nov. 25

Washington, D. C.—More than 400,000 soft coal miners, acting entirely on their own initiative, quit work and brought about a nation-wide bituminous coal shutdown because they were convinced the contract of the United Mine Workers Union and the Department of Interior is at an end.

UMW President John L. Lewis was ordered to show cause November 25 why he should not be held in contempt of court and possibly sentenced to jail because he failed to obey an injunction issued by Federal District Judge Goldsborough directing him to notify the miners that the contract had not been terminated and was still in force.

The United Mine Workers Union also was cited for contempt, which means that its other officers may also be punished.

AFL President William Green led a united protest of all American labor against the Government's high-handed tactics and its resort to the process of injunction. He said:

"In my opinion, the Government's resort to the injunctive process, with its enslaving and incriminating effects, will have the opposite result from that intended. Instead of returning to work, the miners who have voluntarily walked out will voluntarily refuse to return until a new contract becomes effective.

"All American labor unites with the Mine Workers in condemning this reversion to the archaic philosophy of Government by injunction and this perversion of the Norris-LaGuardia Act."

The appearance in court November 25 will give Mr. Lewis and other officers of the United Mine Workers their first opportunity to explain the primary issues involved in the labor dispute.

Up to now, the union officials, as well as all those who have been sympathetic to the plight of the miners, have been prevented from saying a single word in defense of their position.

The language of the War Labor Disputes Act is emphatic in its declaration forbidding any person or organization from doing or saying anything which might be construed as encouraging a walkout in any mine or plant seized by the Government.

Throughout the Capital there has been widespread speculation regarding the strength of this law if and when it is put to a court test. The entire discussion hinges on free speech and general discussion of matters affecting wide sectors of the American living pattern.

Labor, Management, Government Decry Compulsion In Industrial Disputes

Pelham Manor, N. Y.—Representatives of labor, management and Government agreed at a meeting here that compulsory arbitration of labor disputes in peacetime is unworkable.

Discussing "What is Government's Responsibility in Labor Disputes?" at a forum in the Manor Club, Herbert Thatcher, associate counsel of the American Federation of Labor; Ira Mosher, board chairman of the National Association of Manufacturers, and Edgar L. Warren, national director of the U. S. Conciliation Service, joined in decrying compulsory arbitration.

Mr. Thatcher contended that Government's responsibility under any free enterprise economy should consist of aiding and extending collective bargaining on a broad basis and on as equal terms as possible. The Wagner Act achieves much of this, he said.

"Government should not set itself up," Mr. Thatcher continued, "to determine for the parties what wages and conditions industry shall give or labor shall receive, except in relation to health and safety minimums."

Mr. Warren said the Government did not and should not interfere in the disputes, but that a policy of free collective bargaining did not mean Government was helpless. It means, he said, that persuasion is substituted for compulsion.

"I do not believe," Mr. Warren declared, "that Government can successfully substitute its own decisions for the voluntary agreements worked out over the bargaining table by representatives of labor and management. Peace in industry can only be achieved by responsible unions and responsible management."

149,046 Veterans Cut Off Subsistence Allowance List

Washington, D. C.—Headquarters of the Veterans Administration here disclosed it had suspended subsistence payments to 149,046 war veterans, who are entitled to these benefits under the GI Bill of Rights, but who had failed to report earnings while attending school or on-job training.

More veterans may be affected similarly when several additional district offices make reports, officials said.

In announcing the suspensions the VA said that tuition payments, made directly to schools, will not be halted and that the direct subsistence allowances will be restored as soon as the affected veterans comply with the section of the law which requires them to notify the administration of their earnings.

The purpose of the provision is that no veteran should receive a subsistence allowance, which, together with earnings, brings his income above $200 a month if he has dependents and $175 a month if he is single and has no dependents.

The VA estimated that about 80 percent of 1,800,000 veterans in school or training are receiving some subsistence allowance. The maximum payment for unmarried veterans is $65 a month, while married men get up to $90 monthly.

Actually, these provisions were to go into effect last August 8. However, because of the time required to set up the administrative machinery, the VA did not crack down until today. On November 1, though, it warned that allowances would be suspended if the recipients did not report their earnings by November 5, and continuously it has put veterans on notice that they may have to rebate part of the payments made to them.

VA officials estimated that 119,000 veterans will have to make such rebates at their convenience, and will no longer receive allowances, while the allowances of 300,000 others will be scaled down because they're making more than $110 a month, exclusive of VA allowances. Thus a married veteran earning $150 a month while in training or school, will get only $50 in subsistence allowances. The same man, if he had no family, would get only $25 additional.

The Administration reported that allowance suspensions affected 4,520 men in the New York region, which includes Puerto Rico. In the region encompassing Pennsylvania, Delaware and New Jersey, 15,840 were affected. However, the suspension will not show until the next regular subsistence checks are due.

JOB PICTURE LITTLE CHANGED

Washington, D. C.—The number of employes in nonagricultural pursuits showed virtually no change between last September and October, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the Labor Department reported. Unemployment, according to the Bureau of the Census, remained at the 2,000,000 level.

GERMAN LABOR LEADER, BEFRIENDED BY THE AFL, IS MAYOR OF HAMBURG

Hamburg, Germany — One marked effort of the American Federation of Labor to preserve free trade unionism in Germany came to fruition here with the election of Max Brauer, 59, to the mayoralty of this large German city.

Mr. Brauer had been Mayor of Altona, a suburb of Hamburg, when the Nazis rose to power. He was removed from office, and through the aid of the American Federation of Labor, was able to flee to France and escape extradition there when the Nazis sought his return to try him on some trumped-up charges.

Mr. Brauer, through further AFL aid, proceeded to China, where he became a political adviser to Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek. Later he proceeded to the United States where, as a veteran leader in the German labor movement, he visited many cities and talked with other Germans-in-exile.

At Mr. Brauer's request, the AFL arranged last June for his return to Germany to help rebuild the German labor movement. He took up quarters in Hamburg, where he was nominated for and elected Mayor by the dominant Social Democratic Party, which won 85 percent of the votes in the recent city elections.

Mr. Baner's wife lives in New York City, where his son, Werner, is a captain in the U. S. Army Medical Corps. A daughter, Mrs. Honore Sibler, lives in Concord, N. H.